

Torrance, California
April 26, 1949

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, April 26, 1949 at 8:03 p.m.

Mayor Sherfey called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Drale, Haggard, Jackson, Powell and Sherfey. Absent: Councilmen: None.

All those present in the Council Chamber saluted the Flag.

Councilman Powell moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held April 12, 1949 and the minutes of a Special Meeting held April 20, 1949 be approved as written. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were read:

Irene M. Hopkins, Secretary, Torrance Library Board of Trustees, recommending that the Council consider the establishment of a branch of the Torrance Library in Hollywood Riviera.

Councilman Powell moved that the request be referred to Councilman Haggard, Chairman of the Public Library Committee, for study and recommendation at the next meeting. Councilman Drale seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Two petitions, bearing thirty-one signatures, requesting additional books for the Walteria Branch of the Torrance Library.

Councilman Haggard moved that the two requests be filed, and he explained that the question of additional books, which has been studied by the Council, will be considered in the forthcoming city budget. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Mr. G. W. Downing, Secretary, Torrance Recreation Commission, submitting two requests from said Commission: 1. That the Council appoint Chairman Lee and Secretary Downing to the Recreation Commission, neither to have voting power. 2. That Mr. A. J. Patronskey from Hollywood Riviera be appointed to the Recreation Commission as representative from that district.

Mayor Sherfey explained that City Attorney Smith has been instructed to prepare an amendment to the Recreation Ordinance which will include these appointments, and said amendment will be presented at the next meeting.

Application of Patricia Panzo and Dorothy Mills for a business license to operate a hamburger stand in the Torrance beach area.

Councilman Drale moved that the request be granted, providing that the applicants have a health permit. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Application of Peter Rabbitt Company, Inc. for a business license to operate retail ice cream trucks.

Councilman Powell moved that the request be granted, providing the applicant has a health permit. Councilman Drale seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Request from W. E. Bowen, Chairman, Torrance Branch, Young Men's Christian Association, for free use of the Civic Auditorium and kitchen facilities on Sunday, May 8, 1949, for the purpose of holding a mother and son breakfast.

Councilman Drale moved that the request be granted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Wm. H. Munds, Secretary, Torrance Planning Commission, enclosing communication from A. Zamperini calling attention to Ordinance No. 316, Sec. 27 F "Provisions for Storage of Automobiles", and requesting permission to build six units without private garages. Mr. Munds advised that a slab or parking area would satisfy the purpose of the law.

Councilman Haggard asked the City Attorney for an opinion on this request.

City Attorney Smith replied, "It is my opinion he can".

Councilman Haggard moved that A. Zamperini be granted a permit to build six units without private garages. Councilman Drale seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Wm. H. Munds, Secretary, Torrance Planning Commission, advising that the Commission was again disturbed by the Council's action in overruling the Commission's recommendation on the request of Harry Anderson and Chester Phillips, to build two homes on one acre of land, Lot 11, Hickman Tract, before said recommendation was referred back to the Planning Commission for reconsideration, as previously agreed upon as the procedure to be followed when the City Council did not agree with the recommendations of the Commission.

It was recommended by the Commission that an informal meeting be held at an early date with the City Council, to discuss matters of policy and procedure on planning and rezoning, and it was recommended that the services of a Planning Engineer be obtained so that the revising of the City's Land Use maps can be carried on without further delay.

Mayor Sherfey explained that the matters pertaining to policy and procedure on planning and rezoning have been discussed by the Council.

Councilman Drale asked the City Attorney if the Council can deny a man the right to build a home on the property in question. City Attorney Smith replied, "I don't think legally you can. That is a confiscation of property. Such a course is not favored by the courts. I think the Council is absolutely right in their action."

Mayor Sherfey moved that the communication from the Planning Commission be received and filed, and that City Manager Stevens arrange a meeting between the Council and Planning Commission and advise both bodies of the date of the meeting. Councilman Haggard seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett advised that at the meeting of April 12, 1949 the Police Department was instructed to report all complaints of any nuisance or hazards with regard to wells, and thereupon presented the following complaints:

1932 - 238th Street	Oil Well Holes
237th St. 1/5 mi.W.of Penn. Ave.	Open 12" Water Well
2052 - 233rd St.	16" Hole Casing
233rd & Penn. Ave.	Dangerous Oil Sump

Councilman Haggard moved that the four complaints be referred to the City Attorney to take immediate action to abate the nuisance. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented for final reading and read title to:

ORDINANCE NO. 457

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE GRANTING PERMISSION TO THE ATCHISON, TOPEKA AND SANTA FE RAILWAY COMPANY, A CORPORATION, TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A STANDARD GAUGE RAILROAD TRACK ACROSS LOMITA BOULEVARD TO SERVE A NEWLY ESTABLISHED INDUSTRY IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Drale moved that Ordinance No. 457 be tabled until the Santa Fe Railway Company agrees in contract form to install wigwags on the three important thoroughfares of the railway's crossings.

Councilman Haggard asked the City Attorney if he has evidence in writing that the Santa Fe Railway Company will take care of all crossings over that particular line, not by wigwag, but by flagmen.

City Attorney Smith replied that he has been assured by Mr. Walker, Chief Attorney for the Santa Fe, that the Santa Fe Railway Company will enter into a stipulation, in contract form, agreeing that at any time a train crosses Lomita, Sepulveda and Torrance Boulevards, a flagman will proceed on foot in front of the train; this would be in lieu of the wigwag.

Councilman Powell asked if the provisions for the wigwag signal in the original ordinance have been changed.

City Attorney Smith replied that as this ordinance has never had a second reading, it is not a new ordinance. He explained it is only by word of mouth they (the Santa Fe) agree to do this in lieu of the wigwag.

Councilman Drale said he was in favor of the wigwag.

Mayor Sherfey called for a second to Councilman Drale's motion. There being none, the motion failed to carry.

Councilman Haggard moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 457 be dispensed with. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson, Powell and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Haggard moved that Ordinance No. 457 be adopted for final reading. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Haggard, Jackson, Powell and Sherfey. NOES: Councilman Drale stated, "I am not voting against granting the Santa Fe the right to a franchise to the electrical factory in Lomita, but I am voting against the wording of this ordinance." ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication from City Manager Stevens was read submitting the following recommendations for the Council's consideration and approval:

PERSONNEL:

1. That Henry S. Dudley, having successfully passed the Civil Service examination, be appointed to serve his probationary period as Bus Operator, effective April 12, 1949, and that his compensation be at the rate of \$221.00 per month.
2. That Benny Kuhn be temporarily employed as a Bus Operator, effective April 22, 1949, and that his compensation be at the rate of \$221.00 per month.
3. That Edward D. Enrietta, having successfully passed the Civil Service examination, be appointed to serve his probationary period as Mechanic, effective April 20, 1949, and that his compensation be at the rate of \$242.00 per month.

4. That Robert Faren, having successfully passed his Civil Service examination, be employed to serve his probationary period as Light Power Equipment Operator, effective May 1, 1949, and that his compensation be at the rate of \$231.00 per month.

APPROPRIATIONS:

1. For the rental of D-8 Caterpillar Tractor and Carry-all, the sum of \$627.50. (From Public Works Funds).
2. For rental of Asphalt Planing Machine for Carson Street, the sum of \$600.00. (From State Gas Tax Funds).
3. For the purchase of Radio Remote Control Unit for Fire Department, the sum of \$250.00.
4. That Proposal "B" of the Harold E. Shugart Company in the amount of \$3,570.00, for installation of Acoustical Ceiling in the Civic Auditorium, be accepted and all other bids be rejected.

Councilman Powell moved that the Council concur in the recommendations of City Manager Stevens. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote:
 AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson, Powell and Sherfey.
 NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication from William H. Munds, Secretary, Torrance Planning Commission, was read advising that at a meeting of the Commission held April 19, 1949 the following cases were considered and it was the unanimous decision of the members to recommend their approval to the City Council:

CASE NO. 158: Petition of Mary Vetter for a Variance and Conditional Permit to permit the construction and operation of a Real Estate Office situated at 2900 Pacific Coast Highway between Hawthorne and Crenshaw Boulevards. This property is located in an A-1 (Light Agricultural) Zone.

CASE NO. 159: Petition of Eva J. Whitney for a Variance and Conditional Permit to permit the construction of an apartment above a garage for rental purposes, situated at 1804 Arlington Avenue on the southeast corner of Arlington Avenue and 218th Street. This property is located in an R-1 (Single-family Residential) Zone.

CASE NO. 160: Petition of D. W. Barnard and S. L. Seymour requesting that Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block 31, Tract No. 2761, located on the west side of Juniper Avenue, between Carson and Sonoma Streets, be rezoned from A-1 (Light Agricultural) to R-1 (Single-family Residential).

As this petition is for a Change of Zone, it will be necessary that the City Council set a date for a Public Hearing before the Council. This hearing cannot legally be held before June 14, 1949, in order to comply with the necessary public notice requirements.

CASE NO. 161: Petition of R. R. Ball for a Variance and Conditional Permit to permit the construction and operation of a Service Station on the southwest corner of Redondo Beach and Crenshaw Boulevards, having a frontage of 150' on Redondo Beach Boulevard and 200' on Crenshaw Boulevard. This property is located in an A-1 (Light Agricultural) Zone.

A Variance on this property for the same purpose was granted Mr. Ball at a meeting of the Planning Commission held April 6,

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1948, but because construction was not started within six months of the filing date, as set forth in Land Use Ordinance No. 316, the Variance became void.

City Attorney Smith called attention to Cases Nos. 158 and 159 saying, "It is not within the province of the Council to grant this, as Ordinance No. 316 is still in effect and the new Ordinance does not become effective until May 12, 1949, and they (the Council) has no jurisdiction to hear this - it lies within the power of the Planning Commission to grant this. Those two (cases) should be referred back to the Planning Commission.

Councilman Powell moved that a Public Hearing on Case No. 160 be held before the Council on June 14, 1949, at 8:00 p.m. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Drale moved that Cases Nos. 158, 159 and 161 be referred back to the Planning Commission. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Drale suggested that the Council adopt, either by resolution or ordinance, a service record program whereby employees of the City of Torrance will be awarded an emblem denoting the number of years of service to the city.

After some discussion on this subject, Councilman Drale moved that his suggestion of a service record program be referred to City Manager Stevens for his analysis and recommendation. Councilman Powell seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

City Manager Stevens presented the General Petroleum Corporation's proposal to market aviation petroleum products at the Torrance Municipal Airport, which Clerk Bartlett read as follows: Five year lease of site with option to renew; said site containing an existing 25,000 gallon storage tank with available pumps and fittings; will pay as rental for said lease one cent per gallon for each gallon of aviation gasoline delivered for sale and five cents for each gallon of aviation engine oil delivered for sale. When volume reaches a satisfactory figure, additional storage facilities will be installed at no cost to the City.

City Manager Stevens also presented proposal from the Standard Oil Company the terms of which are similar to those of the General Petroleum Corporation.

City Manager Stevens explained that the terms of the two proposed lease-agreements are identical, being standard forms in the industry, and he recommended that the City enter into an agreement with these two companies so that they can proceed with the installation of storage facilities.

Councilman Powell moved that in concurrence with the recommendation of City Manager Stevens, the City enter into an agreement with the General Petroleum Corporation and the Standard Oil Company for the sale of aviation petroleum products at the Torrance Municipal Airport. Councilman Drale seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson, Powell and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell requested the Mayor to appoint a Committee for the purpose of drafting an ordinance governing installation of outdoor advertising signs in the City of Torrance.

Mayor Sherfey moved that the Council concur in the following appointments to such committee: Councilmen Powell and Drale, City Attorney Smith and City Manager Stevens, and that these members meet as soon as possible to discuss the regulation of outdoor advertising signs in the City and submit their recommendations to the Council. Councilman Haggard seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented the application of Feature Photos for a photographer's license, which was requested at the meeting of April 12, 1949.

After an investigation of this concern it was Clerk Bartlett's recommendation that they be denied a business license.

Councilman Drale moved that a license be denied Feature Photos as recommended by the City Clerk. Councilman Haggard seconded the motion which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Powell submitted for the Council's consideration the name of George Olding as a member to the City Planning Commission.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

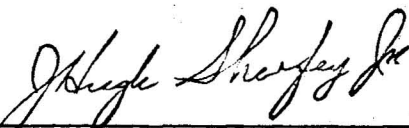
Councilman Drale moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Drale, Haggard, Jackson, Powell and Sherfey. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

At 8:45 p.m., on motion by Councilman Drale, seconded by Councilman Haggard, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned to May 3, 1949 at 8:00 p.m.

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CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:


MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE